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History of John Geréb de
Vingárt

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John Geréb de Vingárt

John Geréb de Vingárt is believed to have been born prior to 1422, with his death estimated to have occurred after 1471, potentially extending as late as 1479¹. He was born into a branch of the Kačić family and later entered into marriage with the sister-in-law of John Hunyadi, the Regent of Hungary.²

His life remains largely unknown, despite the fact that his direct descendants rose to become one of the most influential families in Hungary. Supporting the Hunyadi(John³ and Matthias⁴)and Vladislaus⁵ reigns, with especially close connections to the Hunyadi's they were considered a Hunyadi family by Matthias Corvinus.⁶

Each Wednesday, in the wake of Matthias's death, the community gathered to pray for Peter's salvation, who was among the sons of John. Although Peter continued to live, the prayers were directed towards ensuring the well-being and salvation of both him and his family.⁷

The family's brief period of prominence was

overshadowed by a rapid downfall, as they succumbed to the ravages of conflict, environmental calamities, and various diseases. In the aftermath of their extinction, all assets, including land, financial resources, and social standing, were transferred to John Corvinus, the illegitmant offspring of Matthias Corvinus.⁸

Historical records indicate the presence of a Bishop named John Gereb in the year 1477, suggesting he may have had another son or he became a bishop like Ladislas.⁹ It is evident that the last name Gereb is quite rare, with no additional records of anyone sharing this surname at that time, apart from those linked to John.

Career

John Gereb was a figure of considerable military prowess, commencing his service under the reign of Władysław III of Poland. However, his tenure in this role was short-lived, as Władysław met his demise in Serbia. John was extremely loyal to Władysław even if he only served under him for a couple of year after his death he would try to get revenge he went to the extent to even try to kill Vlad the Impaler(A Subject of the Turks) when he was captured by John Hyundai.¹⁰

He assumed the role of castellan of Görgény in 1440, marking a significant milestone in his career. It is at this juncture that I believe he entered into matrimony with Sofia, who was the sister of Elizabeth Szilágyi. Elizabeth was married to John Hunyadi, a prominent figure of the time.¹¹

Through this alliance, he fortified his connections, which in turn would serve to enhance his influence and authority. From this point onward, it can be inferred that his power was destined to expand

considerably.

Following the demise of Władysław in 1444, John commenced his role as Governor¹² or Vice-Voivode¹³ under Emeric Bebeck, the Voivode of Transylvania. Four years later, Emeric passed away while accompanying John Hunyadi in military endeavors.¹⁴

Two years later, he ascended to the position of Vice-Voivode under Nicholas Újlaki, a role he maintained for a duration of eight years until the death of Nicholas. Following this period, he took on the responsibilities of captain of the royal guards for one year. Subsequently, he returned to the role of Vice-Voivode, serving in this capacity for an additional year.¹⁵

Legacy

He fathered five sons: Stephen, Lawrence, Ladislas, Peter, and Matthias, each of whom significantly influenced Hungary until their respective deaths. Among them, Stephen and Lawrence were notable for their lack of achievements; Stephen lived until the age of thirty, while Lawrence passed away in childhood.

Peter emerged as a key figure in Hungary, holding various governmental roles throughout his life. His most significant contribution was his unwavering loyalty and support to his cousin Matthias, which solidified his status as a trusted ally within the political landscape of the time.

Ladislas, on the other hand, dedicated his life to the church, ultimately ascending to the position of archdeacon for Transylvania. Matthias, who held the title of Ban of Croatia, he'd receive this land from his cousin Matthias Corvinus.¹⁶

Notes

JOHN GERÉB DE VINGÁRT

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- 12 Engel 1996. I. 15., 321.; C. Tóth et al. 2017. 84
- 13 László, Kázmér. “Külkapcsolati figyelem változása az Ullein-Reviczky Antal-féle főszerkesztői értekezleteken.” *Villanások a politika és a diplomácia történetéből* (2023): 96.
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LEGACY

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